**“Judgement Day”**

**By: Flannery O’Connor**

**Summary**: “Judgement Day” tells of the final hours of Tanner’s life with flashbacks of his past. The story begins with an older Tanner who is suffering from a stroke, which was caused by an encounter with a northern black person earlier in his life. Tanner wants to return home and escape because he had heard his daughter and son-in-law deciding to ignore their promise to return him to Georgia for burial. As he waits for his daughter to leave, he begins to think about scenes from his past life. When the daughter leaves, the climax begins as Tanner tries to escape from his apartment and only makes it to the stairs before he gets a second stroke which paralyzes his legs as he falls down the stairs. The black person who slugged Tanner earlier, stuffed Tanner’s head and legs between the spokes of the banister and leaves him there. The daughter returns home and finds Tanner dead. The daughter decides to have his body shipped to Georgia just as Tanner had wanted.

**Relation:**

“A Good Man is Hard to Find” and “Judgement Day” have many similarities. In “A Good Man is Hard to Find” the grandma dies and in “Judgement Day” an old man named Tanner dies. The reason they die is based on their own personalities. Both the grandma and Tanner die because of their stubbornness and speaking and thinking hastily. How they died reflects back on the rest of their lives. Although the grandma didn’t mean to wreck, she never told anybody about her mistake about the house being in Tennessee instead of Georgia. She ends up slamming on the breaks, which causes Bailey to be frightened, and causes the wreck. The wreck then ended up costing everybody’s life in the car. Tanner died for just the same reason; he didn’t think about the consequences of trying to escape and was angry when talking to his daughter about making sure she kept his promise of sending him to Georgia for burial. Also, both stories contain reminiscing of the past. The grandma in “A Good Man is Hard to Find” reminisces about the past when people could be trusted with Red Sammy. Also the misfit remembers things his father said and did as well as the unfairness of his punishment for a crime he can’t remember committing. In “Judgement Day” Tanner reminisces about how he ended up in New York. His daughter found him living in a shack he didn’t own with his friend of thirty years, Coleman Parrum. Tanner ends up having to leave Georgia when Dr. Foley confronts him about how he has purchased the land which Tanner and Coleman sit on. Tanner ends up having to leave Georgia and move to New York with his daughter. In both short stories, the epiphanal moment is accompanied by violence and destruction, just like most of Flannery O’ Connor’s stories. Both deaths are foreshadowed earlier in the story. The grandma states that she wants to die looking like a lady before the car crash and ends up doing so. Tanner was so determined to get to Georgia so he could be could die there, that he ended up killing himself in New York, a place which he hated. It was foreshadowed throughout the story that Tanner wouldn’t make it to Georgia.

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**Analysis**- Small decisions often lead to large consequences. In “A Good Man is Hard to Find” and “Judgement Day”, the main characters have made decisions that cost their life. Tanner tries to escape from his apartment and ends up killing himself, and the grandma in “A Good Man is Hard to Find” tells the misfit he recognizes him which eventually costs her life. If Tanner and the grandma had thought about their decision more carefully, then their lives wouldn’t be taken from them. Tanner couldn’t wait to escape and made a rash decision, and the grandma didn’t think before she spoke. The picture shows a person thinking deeply about the choices he has before he actually makes his decision.